

PART 2 - RESPONSE DATA QUALITY OBJECTIVES

RES.1 Final Remedy Selected/Final ROD Authority

Section 1 - Program Activity Information

1.1 **Program Activity:** Final Remedy Selected/Final ROD Authority. The Final Remedy Selected measure is the determination that the final remedy decision (removal or remedial decision) has been made for all operable units at an NPL site, and no other response actions need to be selected for the site to be protective of human health and the environment

1.2 **Program Activity Category:** GPRA annual performance measure

1.3 **Program Area:** Project Management/Remedy Selection

1.4 **EPA Sponsor:**

Subject Matter Expert	Subject Area	Phone #
Carolyn Kenmore	Final Remedy Selection	(703) 308-8644
Robin M. Anderson	Project Management/Remedy Selection	(703) 603-8747
Joshua Barber	Federal Facilities	(703) 603-0265
Tracey Seymour	Federal Facilities	(703) 603-8712

Section 2 - Problem/Decision Objective

2.1 **Problem:** Once sites are put on the NPL, there are few remedy progress measures to determine status of cleanup. It may take a long time for a site to move from Construction Start to Construction Completion. Additional decision points need to be tracked to measure site progress towards protecting human health and the environment. The Final Remedy Selected measure is an important decision point in the Superfund process for sites requiring a remedial action to be protective of human health and the environment. Once a site reaches the Final Remedy Selected decision phase, all response decisions for the site will have been made, and activities to implement the remedy and ultimately put the site back into reuse and deletion from the NPL can progress for the entire site.

2.2 **Stakeholder(s):** Headquarters Remedy staff, Regional IMCs, RPMs, Site Managers, Congress and the Public.

2.3 **Decision-maker(s):** Regions are responsible defining the Final Remedy Selected in WasteLAN. Regional Project Managers (RPMs) enter the Final Remedy Selected qualifier (result) in WasteLAN for the ROD, ROD Amendment, or Action Memorandum that represents the final (or planned final) remedy decision for the site. The final remedy determination should be supported in the decision source document.

2.4 **Decision:** The GPRA measure tracks the number of sites for which the Final Remedy Selected determination is made by Fiscal Year, and as a cumulative total to date. To make the Final Remedy Selected decision in WasteLAN, the Final Remedy Selected qualifier is defined for a completed decision action in CERCLIS. The qualifier may be assigned to a completed ROD, ROD Amendment or Action

Memorandum action. The completion of these actions is the signature of the ROD, ROD Amendment or Action Memorandum. The qualifier may also be assigned to an NPL Deletion action if the Final Remedy Selected determination has not yet been made at that site. The Final Remedy decision (qualifier) can only be made if no further remedy studies or decisions are planned for the site with the exception of a non-fundamental change to the overall remedy that would meet the criteria for an Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD). The Final Remedy Selected does not signify that the site is construction complete or that all cleanup goals have been met. Decision documents that are planned may be assigned the Final Remedy Selected qualifier, but the site is not counted toward the GPRA measure until the decision document is signed as final and the completion date is entered into WasteLAN.

Section 3 - Information Needs

Name	Source	System	Table/Column
Site ID		WasteLAN	site.site_id
Activity that represents the final remedy at the site.	ROD, ROD Amendment, Action Memorandum	WasteLAN	action.rat_code/act_code_id
Planned Completion date		WasteLAN	action.act_curr_pln_cmplt_date
Actual Completion date	ROD, ROD Amendment, Action Memorandum	WasteLAN	action.act_actl_cmplt_date
Operable Unit	ROD, ROD Amendment, Action Memorandum	WasteLAN	action.ou_id
Final Remedy Selected qualifier	decision document/RPM	WasteLAN	action.ralt_code (=R)
Fiscal Year	calculated based on actual completion date of action to which Final Remedy qualifier is assigned	WasteLAN	final_remedy_determination.frd_established_fy is not NULL and is <= selected FY
Final Remedy Determination (GPRA)	system populated with 'Y' when actual completion date entered for a measure/action with the Final Remedy Selected qualifier assigned	WasteLAN	final_remedy_determination.frd_trigger_action_flag = 'Y'
Reason for Final Remedy Selected qualifier change	RPM	WasteLAN	final_remedy_determination.frd_reason_for_change
NPL Status		WasteLAN	SITE.rnpl_status_code in ('F','D')
Final Remedy Determination		WasteLAN	final_remedy_determination.frd_deleted_flag is NULL
Federal Facility		WasteLAN	site.rfed_fclty_code <> 'Y' or is NULL

Section 4 - Scope/Universe

The Final Remedy Selected measure goal is to select final remedies (cleanup targets) at 30% (approximately 514) of RCRA baseline facilities and approximately 82% (1,223) of 1,498 Superfund sites (as of FY2002) on the NPL by 2008. The interim target is 20 Final Remedy Selected decisions a year. This measure will track the final remedy selected at NPL sites only. While the GPRA goal only applies to NPL sites, all sites with remedy decisions will be tracked (including Superfund Alternative sites). The GPRA measure will report cumulative number of Final Remedies Selected at NPL sites to date, as well as the number of Final Remedies Selected at sites within a given fiscal year.

Section 5 - Data Quality Requirements

Numerous data quality/quality assurance mechanisms have been built into the WasteLAN system to assist in accurate reporting and prevent users from entering invalid determinations. A baseline list of sites with Final Remedy Selected determinations as of the end of FY2003 were populated into WasteLAN in July 2004. The baseline list of sites was generated using the following criteria: those having a completed ROD or Removal action and no additional planned ROD, ROD Amendment, Removal, Action memorandum, RI/FS or Environmental Evaluation/Cost Analysis actions at the site. The list was reviewed by the Regions to confirm those sites for which the Final Remedy was selected, and to identify the action which documented the Final Remedy Selected decision.

5.1 Completeness: To receive credit for the Final Remedy Selected at a site, the actual completion date must be entered for the last decision (ROD, ROD Amendment, Action Memo) at the site and the action is supported by the signed decision document. The decision action must have the Final Remedy Selected qualifier assigned. In WasteLAN, a record in the Final Remedy Determination table will define the selected action, action sequence, final remedy determination flag ('Y') and fiscal year in which the Final Remedy Selected determination was made. In addition, if the Final Remedy Selected qualifier was moved from one decision document action to another at the site, an explanation of the reason for these changes is required. DQO applies to all NPL sites in CERCLIS.

5.2 Accuracy: The final remedy determination is tracked to the signature date of the decision document that designates the remedy for the final OU at the site. The measure tracks the fiscal year in which the final remedy determination was made and associates the GPRA measure to the remedy decision document/action. The Final Remedy Selected GPRA measure at a site is locked to the year in which the Final Remedy was originally selected/designated. The system prevents users from changing the original Fiscal Year in which a final remedy selected determination was made, once the fiscal year has past. If a new decision/action is made at the site that supercedes the original Final Remedy Selected determination, the system prompts users to "move" the Final Remedy Selected qualifier to the new measure/action which becomes the new Final Remedy at the site. In these cases, the Region must document the reason that the remedy changed. If the Fiscal year of the original Final Remedy Selected action has passed, the GPRA measure counts the site in the original Fiscal Year of the determination. The site is not counted twice if the Final Remedy Selected qualifier is moved.

Most accurate - Data is reported in an official decision source document. There is objective evidence (documentation that a third party can examine and arrive at the same conclusion) to support the accomplishment of this measure.

5.3 Timeliness: Credit for the Final Remedy Selected is counted based on data entered by the Regions. The Final Remedy Selected decision will be marked by the Region as a qualifier associated with a specific response measure decision document and operable unit. This qualifier may be selected for a planned action that is expected to be the Final Remedy for the site. The GPRA measure only includes sites for which the Final Remedy Selected qualifier is assigned to a completed action (one for which the user enters the actual completion date). **It is good management practice to enter data regarding the event as soon as practicable after the event occurs. However, data must be entered prior to the end of the quarter in which the event occurs.**

5.4 Consistency: The system will require that regions report the information in the same way. The system includes quality control procedures that will prevent users from entering Final Remedy Selected at sites for which other actions/measures exist that are inconsistent with this determination. The system locks the GPRA determinations by fiscal year to assist Headquarters in doing comparisons across years.

- Most Consistent - National Guidance and definitions have been distributed

The following measures are being taken to ensure consistent guidance and definitions are readily available to the Regions. These measures include:

- Guidance - The regions have received guidance on this GPRA measure. Final guidance on how to report Final Remedy Selected was written in FY04.
- Training - Training on Reporting Final Remedy Selected was initially conducted during the summer of 2004.
- Changes in Determination - Changes in Final Remedy Selected determinations will be monitored with an audit report at Headquarters. A Discoverer report is planned (**August 2005**) to provide Headquarters with information on determination changes and explanations for these changes that are required of users when the Final Remedy Selected qualifier is "moved".

Section 6 - Information Collection and Reporting

6.1 Source for the information: Regional users enter information from ROD, ROD Amendment or Action Memorandum source documents.

6.2 User interface: Regional staff enter the information into WasteLAN. Specific staff should be identified in each region.

6.3 System transfers Data on Final Remedies is snapshot from regions to HQ, and reported in Efacts.

6.4 Internal outputs: SCAP 15 and standardized audit reports in Discoverer

6.5 Audit reports:

6.6 External outputs: reported annually to Congress

6.7 Guidance documentation:

- Superfund Program Implementation Manual (SPIM) – OSWER Directive 9200.3-14-1G-Q